Getting Mental Health Research Funding as an Early Career Researcher

Top Tips

1. Read the call specification and guidance documents (including the submission process) carefully, several times, and while writing your proposal.

2. Ensure your proposal fits the remit of the call to funding. Be very clear about how this does match the requirements. eNurture invites potential applicants to submit a non-mandatory Expression of Interest for feedback on whether their proposal is within scope.

3. Start your proposal early and continue to develop and edit it. Rushed proposals are usually obvious to the reviewers.

4. Sounds obvious but be sure to check through your proposal carefully for typos, you want it to look professional.

5. Always provide a lay summary that is accessible to anyone who needs to read and review your proposal.

6. Include a co-applicant with lived experience. Make them integral to your proposal, rather than an add on.

7. Think about the impact of your project and its outputs. How will it contribute to existing knowledge/policy/practice?

8. Get feedback from colleagues and others not working in your field.

9. Look at successful applications to get an idea of what one looks like. Unsuccessful applications are also useful for identifying what NOT to do!

10. Do not give up! An unsuccessful proposal does not always mean it is unfundable. Funders cannot support every single good-quality proposal they receive as the money available is limited. So keep trying.